Statement

Of

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Chairman Cox, Congressman Thompson and Members of the Subcommittee, my name is Matt A. Mayer, and I serve as the Acting Executive Director of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP). On behalf of all of us at DHS, it is my honor and pleasure to appear before you today to discuss SLGCP's mission, our mission relative to the Department's Science and Technology Directorate (S&T), and our Fiscal Year 2006 budget request.

SLGCP was formed less than a year ago pursuant to Secretary Ridge's consolidation of several DHS components, the Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP), the Office of State and Local Government Coordination (SLGC), and several discrete programs from DHS' Transportation and Security Administration and Federal Emergency Management Agency, within one, single administrative structure. This consolidation represents a significant focusing and streamlining of DHS' preparedness activities that encompasses our mission to prevent, deter, respond to, and recover from major events. It also fulfills Secretary Ridge's commitment to the Nation's first responder community to create a "one-stop-shop" to better serve their needs.

On December 17, 2003, President George W. Bush issued Homeland Security Presidential Directive 8 (HSPD-8) on national preparedness. HSPD-8 defined preparedness as the existence of plans, procedures, policies, training, and equipment necessary at the Federal, State, and local level to maximize the ability to prevent, respond to, and recover from major events. SLGCP was assigned lead responsibility to coordinate implementation of

HSPD-8 on behalf of the Department. With SLGCP, the Department has a single point of entry, interaction, and information for assisting State and local governments, nongovernmental organizations, and other Federal agencies and departments to prevent, deter, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism.

The Road Forward: The FY 2006 Budget

Mr. Chairman, as you have scheduled this hearing to coincide with the release of the President's FY 2006 Budget, I would like to take this opportunity to briefly summarize the request for SLGCP. That request totals \$3.6 billion for SLGCP to continue our strong commitment and support to the Nation's first responder community. Of this amount, \$1.02 billion is for the State Homeland Security Grant Program, which would be significantly realigned to award funds based on risk and need while aligning with national priorities. An additional \$1.02 billion is for the continuance of the Urban Areas Security Initiative, which targets funds to the Nation's highest risk urban areas. To simplify the number of programs while continuing dedicated funding for law enforcement's counter-terrorism efforts, the President requests that no less than twenty percent (20%) of the State Homeland Security Grant Program and the Urban Areas Security Initiative Grant Program be used for law enforcement prevention activity.

Further, the President's request provides \$600 million for a new Targeted Infrastructure Protection Program (TIPP) to supplement State, local, and private sector infrastructure protection efforts based on critical vulnerabilities that is being consulted with the Office of

3

Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection. The FY 2006 request also includes a strong commitment to our Nation's fire service by providing \$500 million for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. The request includes \$50 million the Citizens Corps Program and \$170 million for the Emergency Performance Grant Program.

And let me take a moment to highlight the importance of our preparedness efforts with the Citizens Corps Program. State and local governments have embraced the concept of Citizen Corps. They are developing the management capacity of the Councils, conducting public education, providing training for citizens, and engaging citizens through volunteer programs. This is evidenced, Mr. Chairman, through the increasing number of Citizen Corps Councils. Since FY 2003, the number of Citizen Corps Councils have increased 80 percent to 1,330. These councils exist in all 50 States and 5 of the 6 territories. We have also expanded the Citizen Corps Affiliate network of national non-profits to 21 organizations, which allows us to expand the resources and materials available to States and local communities by partnering with programs and organizations that offer resources for public education, outreach, and training. Additionally, we were able to mobilize 2,700 recruits from 48 States to support the 2004 Hurricane Season response efforts.

Equally important as our mission to prepare the first responder community for a major event is our mission to prepare our citizen communities, as well. Whether that activity is ensuring a continuity of service to the special needs community during a major event or is educating our children on what to do if a terrorist attack occurs, Citizens Corps is the last line of our preparedness defense that will allow our first responder community to focus its

vital and finite resources on ground zero with the knowledge that the surrounding community is self-sufficient and taking care of itself. We must keep our commitment to build a better prepared America and Citizens Corps is part of that commitment.

For continuation of our commitment to training our Nation's first responders, the request includes \$94.3 million for SLGCP's State and Local Training Program. Further, the request includes \$59 million for the National Exercise Program, which includes support for State and local exercises and for the National Top Officials exercise series. Finally, the request includes \$10.6 million for technical assistance initiatives for State and local agencies and \$14.3 million for program evaluation and assessments.

The President's request also makes significant changes to how State homeland security grant funds are distributed. The large majority of the funds under the FY 2006 State Homeland Security Grant Program will be distributed by the Secretary of Homeland Security on risk and vulnerability.

For FY 2006, the Administration proposes to redesign the homeland security funding process to award State Homeland Security Grant Program funds based on an evaluation of *risk, vulnerabilities, and needs*, instead of PATRIOT Act minimum formula - .75 percent minimum for States and .25 percent minimum for territories. Congressional direction has resulted in the use of population to allocate the balance. As you know, this formula has been criticized for failing to adapt to the dynamic nature of homeland security risks, threats, and vulnerabilities. Awarding funding based on a relative evaluation risk, threat,

vulnerability, and capability needs (gaps) data will better reflect a results-based planning process that supports achievement of target preparedness capability levels nationally.

This program would be a discretionary grant program, not a formula-based program, which would be based on the following guiding principles:

- All 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. territories will be eligible for funding.
- States will submit detailed applications including macro-level goals and activities and associated justification detailing how those activities address capability shortfalls and enable achievement of the minimum baseline capability levels laid out in the National Planning Guidance (NPG), to be disseminated on March 31, 2005.
- Applications will be evaluated and funds awarded based on *risk and need*, consistent with National priorities.
- Funding will be awarded based on a relative evaluation of risk, need, applications, but each State or territory will receive no less than 0.25 percent of the total, or \$2.5 million under the Budget request. The actual minimum may be higher depending the extent to which DHS identifies specific capabilities that each State should have.
- At least 20% of funds awarded will be dedicated to support law enforcement terrorism prevention activities.

In order to apply for and receive funds under this program, States will be required to update their existing homeland security strategies to ensure alignment with national priorities and achievement of the minimum capability levels established in the National Planning Guidance. Updated strategies will be submitted in concert with FY 2006 grant applications, which will include a plan detailing how FY 2006 grant funds will support achievement of these priorities and minimum capability levels. State applications will demonstrate core focus areas, how funding will be used to close critical capability gaps in support of the National Planning Guidance, and a funding allocation plan.

Further, the FY 2006 Urban Areas Security Initiative will be distributed based solely on an evaluation of risk and needs. In making UASI award determinations, the Department will consider a number of risk factors, including threat, presence of critical infrastructure, vulnerability, population, population density, law enforcement investigative and enforcement activity, and the existence of formal mutual aid agreements. Additionally, the \$600 million requested for the Targeted Infrastructure Protection Program (TIPP) will be distributed by DHS to supplement State, local and private sector infrastructure protection efforts based on risk and needs. For TIPP, the Secretary, acting through the Executive Director of SLGCP in consultation with IAIP and other components, will make award determinations on a number of factors, including relevant intelligence, threat data, and vulnerabilities identified at specific critical infrastructure sites.

For FY 2006, the preponderance of DHS grant funding for State, territorial, tribal and local entities - under the SHSG Program, the UASI Program, and TIPP - would be distributed based on risk, threat, and vulnerability data, which aligns closely with the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission and the legislation that was considered by both the House and Senate last year as part of the conference negotiations for the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act.

The SLGCP Mission

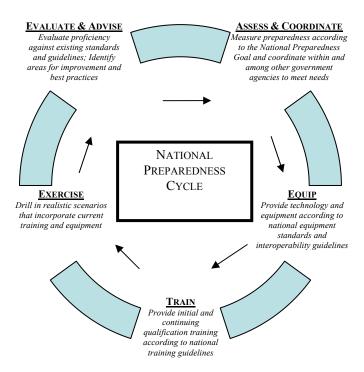
SLGCP achieves its preparedness mission by combining three distinct, yet interrelated items, along a "National Preparedness Cycle." First, SLGCP distributes project funding to

our first responder community, which consists of law enforcement; the fire service; the emergency medical service; public officials responsible for emergency planning and response; the public health sector; transit authorities including rail and ports; and non-governmental organizations. The distribution of the grants and other assistance is part of an interactive and highly complex series of activities that include the establishment of State and urban strategies, the setting of priorities, and the conducting of vulnerability assessments.

As our first responder community obtains the equipment and training needed to prevent, deter, respond to, and recover from a terrorist incident, we also engage them in our robust training and technical assistance programs that teach them the full spectrum of capabilities (ranging from what they need to know to identify a potential threat to how to use a particular piece of equipment they recently acquired) they will need to successfully perform their jobs in today's ever-shifting threat environment.

The next stage incorporates them to our exercise program that aims to test their competency and identify vulnerabilities that will require additional training. Finally, we collect data from these exercises, as well as from grantee reports and other assessments, to evaluate improvements in State and local preparedness and better target our programs in the future. This "National Preparedness Cycle"—analytically-based financial support, robust training, and results-oriented exercises—allows us to efficiently and effectively prepare our first responder community.

This "National Preparedness Cycle" is depicted in greater detail graphically below.



Since 1998, what is now SLGCP, has provided assistance to all 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories. Through its programs and initiatives it has trained 837,000 first responders from more than 5,000 jurisdictions, and conducted more than 725 exercises. And, as of the end of Fiscal Year 2005, SLGCP will have provided States and localities with over \$11 billion in financial assistance and direct support to State and local preparedness activities.

SLGCP's preparedness mission recognizes the interdependency of Federal, State, local and private-sector homeland security missions. While SLGCP provides direct support to the

first responder community, it also provides general support to all elements of DHS and to other Federal agencies to ensure that national preparedness is fully integrated. It is, as Secretary Ridge so often said, "one team, one fight."

SLGCP's preparedness mission is clearly defined and established by the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (HSA) [Pub.L. 107-296] through the authorities provided to its component, the Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP). Under the provisions of the HSA the Office for Domestic Preparedness,

"shall have the **primary responsibility** within the executive branch of Government for the **preparedness** of the United States for act of terrorism..." [HSA, Sec.430(c)] (emphasis added)

Under the HSA, ODP has a broad and defined preparedness mission covering training, exercises, and equipment support.

Assess and Coordinate

SLGCP recognizes the need to assist States in assessing their preparedness gaps and vulnerabilities, and to use this information to guide their allocation of Federal homeland security funds. To achieve this, SLGCP is continually collecting and examining information from the field. As an example of this, in Fiscal Year 1999, SLGCP launched the State Homeland Security Assessment and Strategy (SHSAS) process to assist States in their strategic planning process. The SHSAS process was repeated in Fiscal Year 2003

allowing States and local jurisdictions to update their needs assessment data to reflect post-September 11, 2001 realities, as well as identify progress on the priorities outlined in their initial homeland security strategies.

However, while the SHSAS process allowed States and localities to self-assess their threats and vulnerabilities, it did not include the larger measures of the level of preparedness they needed to achieve. This deficiency was recognized with the issuance of HSPD-8 and illustrates another level of SLGCP's effort to assess and coordinate preparedness.

Mr. Chairman, HSPD-8 tasks the Secretary of Homeland Security, and through his delegation SLGCP, in coordination with the heads of other appropriate Federal departments and agencies, in consultation with State and local governments, to strengthen the preparedness of the United States to prevent, deter, respond to, and recover from threatened or actual domestic terrorist attacks, major disasters and other emergencies. It requires: 1) a national domestic preparedness goal; 2) mechanisms for improved delivery of Federal preparedness assistance to State and local governments; and 3) actions to strengthen preparedness capabilities of Federal, State, and local entities. The developmental work under HSPD-8 will reach its culmination with the issuance of the National Preparedness Goal, and accompanying National Planning Guidance, which are on schedule to be released by March 31, 2005.

Equip States and Localities

SLGCP's Preparedness Programs Division manages and oversees the implementation of preparedness programs at the State and local level. Among the Preparedness Programs Division's many tasks is its responsibility for the Homeland Security Grant Program, which includes the State Homeland Security Grant Program, the Citizen Corps Program, the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program, and the Urban Areas Security Initiative, as well as funds for transit and port security. The division also manages the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. Through these programs, SLGCP is enhancing preparedness by ensuring that State and local emergency responders have the equipment they need to improve their ability to prevent, deter, respond to, and recover from threats or acts of terrorism. But simply providing States and localities the means to acquire equipment is not enough. Preparedness means more than acquiring equipment. It also means identifying commercially available technologies and equipment, understanding its applicability and usefulness to first responders, and making that information available so they can make informed choices when spending Federal funds.

As part of its effort to ensure this, SLGCP, through its System Support Division (SSD), works to identify **commercially available** equipment and technologies, and provide the first responder community useful information and guidance on that equipment. For example, SSD is piloting the Technology Transfer Program (TTP), which provides direct technology assistance to small and rural jurisdictions. TTP is assisting jurisdictions to enhance their preparedness and meet their homeland security missions, by providing technologies to small and rural jurisdictions. TTP focuses on **identifying currently**

available commercial technology. Importantly, it does **not** engage in the research, development, and testing of new or nascent technologies.

Train States and Localities

Training is critical to preparedness. SLGCP's Training Division identifies, manages the development of, and approves training to prepare the first responder community for terrorism events. This function begins with identifying training needs of State and local communities and culminates with training development, testing, and delivery. SLGCP's training network and resources are extensive and, as its training program has matured, SLGCP has placed a high value on ensuring that its training efforts are credible, structured, and institutionalized.

For example, the bedrock of all quality training is sound instructional design. SLGCP has adopted the Analyze, Design, Develop, Implement, and Evaluate (ADDIE) model of instructional design, and has promulgated the *ODP Strategy for Blended Learning* to explain each step of the training process. SLGCP also provides practical tools for implementation, as well as examples of best practices to increase the quality, consistency, efficiency, and accessibility of training.

Another example of SLGCP institutionalizing and structuring training has been our work with the Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism (MIPT) to ensure that "best practices" from all SLGCP program areas are assessed, and if validated, catalogued and posted through the SLGCP sponsored Lessons Learned Information Sharing portal

(<u>www.llis.gov</u>) for all first responders to use in advancing our collective homeland security.

Exercise

Exercises are also critical in enhancing the Nation's security. Exercises provide first responders a "risk free environment" in which they practice prevention, reduce vulnerabilities, and sharpen response capabilities. Our goal is to help States and communities assess their capacity to prevent, deter, respond to, and recover from a disaster and provide an opportunity to modify and improve protocols and procedures. SLGCP's National Exercise Program provides tailored exercise activities and serves as a primary vehicle for training officials and emergency response personnel. The NEP enhances the collaboration among all levels of government, and provides SLGCP an ongoing venue in which to assess training, protocols, and equipment.

Evaluate and Advise

Through SLGCP's Evaluation and National Assessment Division, national program data is gathered, analyzed, and interpreted. As the focal point for information collection and evaluation, it reviews and assesses the execution of State strategies against the supporting threat, vulnerability, and needs assessment data. As data is evaluated, best practices can be identified for replication and knowledge gaps can be addressed and mitigated. This information is then provided to States and local jurisdictions as part of SLGCP's ongoing practice to provide continuous information.

For example, SLGCP's SSD, as do all SLGCP components, works closely with the MIPT. Three separate initiatives developed between SSD and MIPT have become models for information sharing among the Nation's preparedness community, and provide access to information and tools to assist them in determining their vulnerabilities and needs, thereby enhancing their overall preparedness. These are the LLIS.gov portal, Responder Knowledge Base (RKB), and the Terrorism Knowledge Base (TKB).

- LLIS.gov serves as the medium for the dissemination of after-action reports from SLGCP-funded exercises. LLIS.gov is a vital link between the available homeland security preparedness information and the first responder community. Ultimately, this information provides State and local jurisdictions the basis for the development of their homeland security strategies and helps determine their preparedness capacity. By sharing best practices and after action reports, it is our hope that every jurisdiction will utilize this tool in an iterative manner that will allow each jurisdiction to learn from the activities of other jurisdictions so that collectively we start from a higher point of learning.
- RKB provides emergency responders with a single source for integrated information on existing equipment, including the InterAgency Board's (IAB)
 Standardized Equipment List (SEL), SLGCP's Authorized Equipment List (AEL), and National Terrorism Response Objectives.

• TKB is the one-stop resource library for comprehensive **completed** research and analysis on global terrorist incidents, terrorism-related court cases, and terrorist groups and leaders. The portal provides the first responder community the status of terrorism today and takes users through the history, affiliations, locations, and tactics of the global terrorist groups.

Mr. Chairman, the National Preparedness Cycle is useful in explaining SLGCP's mission and activities, and how those activities contribute enhancing the Nation's overall preparedness. It should be clear, however, that these SLGCP activities cannot exist in a vacuum. As with our preparedness efforts, considerable work is being done throughout DHS that allows SLGCP to do its job more effectively and more efficiently. The S&T Directorate is but one example of how the efforts of one part of DHS with the primary mission to set technical equipment standards and conduct the vital research and development on new or nascent technology that will help us secure our homeland greatly impacts our mission to prepare America.

SLGCP's preparedness activities—from the equipment law enforcement and intelligence personnel can use to prevent and deter a CBRNE attack to the equipment first responders can use to respond to and recover from an attack—are grounded in a larger and an ever expanding world of scientific knowledge, research, new technologies, and improved standards. In order to understand that world <u>and</u> ground our efforts in the solid information that exists, there is and needs to be a natural and critical linkage between SLGCP and S&T.

Like SLGCP, S&T's mission is clearly defined and articulated by the provisions of the HSA. Under the HSA [see generally Sec.302], S&T is the primary technical standard setting entity in DHS and the research and development arm of the Department. It also has the critical mission of organizing the vast scientific and technological resources of the Nation to support the Nation's security and safety.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to offer a few examples of how SLGCP and S&T coordinate our activities:

Equip States and Localities

As you may know, interoperable communications equipment has been and continues to be an allowable use of SLGCP's Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) funds.

Interoperable communications was addressed in 54 out of the 56 current State homeland security strategies, and in 48 out of the 49 urban area homeland security strategies. Based on data collected from grantees, through the FY 2004 Initial Strategy Implementation Plan (ISIP) process, total State expenditures for interoperable communications projects from HSGP funds in FY 2004 totaled \$761,068,742, representing more than one-third of the total appropriated amount for the HSGP. Additionally, from UASI funds, total State expenditures were \$239,245,356, which also represents more than one-third of the total appropriated amount for the UASI program. Taken together, State expenditures to develop and/or enhance interoperable communications systems from HSGP and UASI funds totaled \$922,286,604 and funded a total of 4,208 projects in FY 2004 alone. To date, more

than \$1 billion in SLGCP funding has been applied toward interoperable communications solutions.

In addressing interoperable communications, SLGCP has worked with S&T on a number of initiatives. First and foremost, SLGCP and S&T executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to specify the roles and responsibilities each have in addressing interoperable communications. Broadly this breaks down into S&T addressing basic research aspects including standards development and guidance, while SLGCP will provide "on-the- ground" technical assistance and training to emergency response agencies. As such, SLGCP collaborates closely with the SAFECOM Program to incorporate standard grant guidance on interoperable communications equipment into SLGCP's application kits. Recognizing the need for near-term solutions for interoperable communications, SLGCP and SAFECOM are also working together as part of the FY 2005 Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) to ensure that a tactical-level emergency interoperable communications capacity is developed and tested in the fifty highest risk urban areas in the Nation. This initiative builds on RapidCom, a SAFECOM lead, and a SLGCP supported effort, which worked with ten urban areas to provide assistance to improve incident level interoperability capabilities.

Out of RapidCom, a number of tools were developed to serve the first responder community. These included:

- A process for an interoperable communications table top exercise that is
 replicable across urban areas. This scenario-based exercise provides a forum
 for discussing regional communications interoperability capacity, strengths, and
 weaknesses.
- The Interoperability Continuum which provides a graphical depiction of the multiple components needed to develop a successful interoperability solution, beyond just technology, to include governance, standard operating procedures, training & exercises, and usage of equipment. The Interoperability Continuum provides a framework from which all public safety agencies at the local, tribal, State, and Federal levels can baseline their planning and implementation of interoperability solutions.

SLGCP also relies on SAFECOM for standards and guidelines to assist us in our Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP). ICTAP is one of our most important technical assistance efforts and provides operational support to State, local, and tribal agencies' new interoperability systems. ICTAP provides technical assistance at no cost to ensure that jurisdictions understand the scope of their interoperability needs and how to fully utilize new technology. ICTAP's goal is to enable public safety agencies to communicate as they prevent or respond to a terrorism attack.

ICTAP also leverages and works with other Federal, State, and local interoperability efforts whenever possible to enhance overall communications capacity.

SLGCP also has partnered with SAFECOM and other DHS and Federal agencies to establish the Federal Interagency Coordination Council (FICC) to coordinate funding, technical assistance, and standards development across the Federal government for public safety communications and interoperability.

To further build on the successful efforts of SAFECOM and SLGCP, Secretary Ridge established the Office for Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC) in October 2004. OIC serves as the overarching program within the Department to strengthen and integrate interoperability efforts to improve State, local, tribal, and Federal communication. The SAFECOM Program manages the communications program area for the OIC. SAFECOM and SLGCP will continue to work together to ensure that the Nation's first responder community have communications capabilities they require.

SLGCP's SSD collaborates with S&T on the development and implementation of the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program. SAVER assists emergency responders by providing impartial, relevant, and operational validations and assessments of critical **existing** equipment. SLGCP provides S&T with information about performance of **commercially available** products evaluated in real world settings and under the SAVER program.

Train States and Localities

The National Training Program builds on three pillars: training doctrine, training partners, and training technology support tools. S&T has provided valuable support in developing these components, particularly in the ongoing development of projects undertaken by many of SLGCP's training partners, and the development of training doctrine pursuant to HSDP-8. These include guidelines, protocols, templates, strategies, process, and procedures developed to guide the coordination, development, and delivery of training and information.

As a further example, in October 2004, SLGCP began hosting regular meetings to coordinate agroterrorism projects with other Federal agencies, including S&T and the Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Directorate. SLGCP awarded two grants under the FY 2004 Competitive Training Grant Program in the category of agroterrorism to the University of California-Davis and to Kirkwood Community College in Iowa. The coordination efforts already in place with S&T will continue to help shape these projects and S&T and SLGCP exchange project information and data on complementary efforts.

SLGCP's Training Division has also begun participating in the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Homeland Security Standards Panel (HSSP) Training for First Response to WMD. S&T is the sponsor for the ANSI-HSSP in its role as the body responsible for accepting and promulgating standards for the Department. SLGCP continues to participate in these working sessions, providing updates with respect to status

and direction of the National Preparedness Goal, and associated efforts related to the Universal Task List and Target Capabilities List.

And finally, in FY 2004, the Homeland Security Advanced Research and Projects Agency (HSARPA) provided funding to the Technical Support Working Group (TSWG) to support several DHS projects. One of the requirements advertised in the Broad Area Announcement by TSWG was for a DHS Advanced Distributed Learning system. The proposals received under this announcement were reviewed by the DHS e-learning group including representatives of SLGCP and S&T, and resulted in a contract award to Vertex Solutions Inc. The execution of this contract continues to be a joint effort among the DHS Human Capital Office, S&T, and SLGCP.

Exercise

The National Exercise Program provides many opportunities for intra-DHS and interagency collaboration. SLGCP's Exercise Division frequently consults with S&T to integrate projects into exercise planning and activity. For example, during planning for TOPOFF 3, 'plume modeling' utilizing the DHS-led IMAAC (Interagency Modeling and Atmospheric Assessment Center) system has helped to develop scientifically accurate predictions of a hazard zone, as well as to predict the human health effects of a large scale chemical-attack in a densely populated area. In planning for an upcoming Senior Official Exercise, the Bio-Watch program managers from S&T have been instrumental in design of an accurate exercise scenario. Additionally, IMAAC is supporting the SOE effort through provision of atmospheric hazard products for planning and exercise play. Planners from

SLGCP also work closely with S&T and the law enforcement and intelligence communities to confirm the viability of the potential threats addresses for the entire range of exercise activity. Future opportunities for integrating equipment and technology evaluation into exercise activities are under development.

HSPD-8: Coordination for a Roadmap for Preparedness

As you know, Mr. Chairman, the Department is moving forward with the implementation of HSPD-8. As previously stated, HSPD-8 establishes policies, procedures, and goals that strengthen national preparedness to prevent, deter, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters and other emergencies by requiring a national preparedness goal, mechanisms for improved delivery of Federal preparedness assistance to State and local governments, and actions to strengthen capabilities of Federal, State, and local entities. Its significance and anticipated national impact provides SLGCP the context in which to develop major program initiatives and specific guidance to State and local jurisdictions. This work also illustrates the productive connection between S&T and SLGCP.

In FY 2005 and FY 2006, SLGCP will target its programs and policies to help drive the implementation of HSPD-8 principles across all levels of government. In FY 2005, for example, grant resources are available for a variety of purposes to support State and local level planning. Specifically, FY 2005 grant guidance emphasized the importance of building and sustaining law enforcement terrorism prevention activities as well as interoperable communications.

HSPD-8 recognizes the importance that S&T plays in national preparedness. In fact, two of the 16 requirements laid out by HSPD-8 relate directly to S&T. First, HSPD-8 States that "equipment purchased through Federal preparedness assistance for first responders shall conform to equipment standards in place at time of purchase." Second, HSPD-8 states that Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with other appropriate Federal departments and agencies and in consultation with State and local governments, "will develop plans to identify and address national first responder equipment research and development needs based upon assessments of current and future threats." S&T's involvement in these two tasks are critical to SLGCP's ability to execute its HSPD-8 assignment.

The S&T Homeland Security Institute (HSI), a DHS Federally funded research and development center, has been working in close partnership with SLGCP on the implementation of HSPD-8. In addition, SLGCP is working with the HSI on development of a Threat Scenario Portfolio as a planning, training, research, and exercise reference for the entire homeland security community.

DHS continues to work with OMB and The White House to finalize the National Preparedness Goal, which requires coordination with a number of other Federal agencies. Along with the National Planning Guidance, the National Preparedness Goal will guide the Nation's efforts to achieve and sustain nationally accepted risk-based target levels of capability to prevent, deter, respond to, and recover from major events, especially

terrorism. As SLGCP bases future financial assistance programs on the guidance and direction provided by National Preparedness Goal, it will be essential that SLGCP and S&T continue to work collaboratively to ensure that any future standards that are developed are incorporated into grant and program guidelines, and that the research and analytical capacity of S&T, HIS, and its Centers for Excellence are applied to strengthen national preparedness.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my written statement. I am happy to answer any questions that you and the Members of the Subcommittee may have.